BROOKLYN, NY, August 16, 2016 — The Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health announced today it has named Dr. Marilyn Fraser, Chief Executive Officer, effective, September 19. Dr. Fraser currently serves as the Institute’s Deputy Executive Director. She succeeds Dr. Ruth C. Browne, founding Chief Executive Officer, who departs after twenty three years of dedicated leadership and service.

In her role as Deputy Executive Director at AAIUH, Dr. Fraser has had institutional oversight and leads the Institute’s community outreach and research portfolio of work. An accomplished scholar, Dr. Fraser serves as Director of the Community Engagement Core of the NIH funded Brooklyn Health Disparities Center. Dr. Fraser has received various awards including the Health Award from the New York State Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators and was named as one of the extraordinary women of Downstate. In 2013, Dr. Fraser was awarded a prestigious Fulbright Research Specialist award to develop and implement a climate change and public health internship program for secondary school students in Trinidad and Tobago. In addition, Dr. Fraser received the Innovator Award from the Bedford Stuyvesant Family Health Center at their 2014 Gala. In 2015, Dr. Marilyn Fraser was selected to serve on the Collaboration/Engagement Domain Taskforce (DTF), a component of the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Consortium, one of National Institute of Health’s largest and most important initiatives. She has presented her work at scientific meetings, nationally and internationally, and is co-author on several publications.

“Dr. Browne and Dr. Fraser have been an exceptional leadership team ensuring the Institute's brand promise of social justice innovation in health and education, partnership integrity and amassing an amazing network of collaborators and donors in support of the Institute's work.” said Brett Wright, Chairperson, Board of Directors, Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health. “Dr. Fraser is eminently qualified to lead the organization to its next level of accomplishment. She has earned the respect and confidence of the Institute’s Board, staff and partners who will seamlessly continue the critical work of the Institute under her leadership.”

“The pace of change in health care is exponential and the Institute is well-positioned as a thought leader and influencer in developing culturally competent, community driven health solutions, especially for the many health challenges that are socially determined” said Dr. Fraser. "I am honored to take on this new role."

Under Dr. Browne’s leadership the Institute gained national recognition as a pioneer in developing culturally competent health programs that addressed racial, ethnic and gender disparities in health. Her efforts to advance the Ashe legacy through the Institute extended its reach as a best practice leader in interventions that improved health and educational outcomes for multi-ethnic populations on the local, national and international level. Dr. Browne has been the chief architect of the Institute’s partnership with SUNY Downstate Medical Center and Director of the Brooklyn Health Disparities Center, an NIH funded Center of Excellence and partnership with SUNY Downstate
Medical Center and the Brooklyn Borough President's Office. Over two decades she has incubated model programs, tested their effectiveness and replicated these interventions in other parts of the country and abroad.

Since her earliest days as CEO, Dr. Browne has partnered with the Institute's prestigious and renowned Board to create and sustain a diverse funding base and cultivate long-lasting relationships with academic, philanthropic, policy and human services stakeholders. Her expertise in promoting and expanding access to educational opportunity at the pre-collegiate and collegiate levels, coupled with a vast and solid network of relationships with community based organizations and donors, has been an asset in her work, and led to nearly $30 million in grants and donations that advanced the Institute's capacity and reach among the most vulnerable populations in urban, underserved areas, nationally and internationally. During her tenure as a Fulbright Regional Nexus Scholar, Dr. Browne developed and implemented an ongoing program focused on social determinants of health at the University of the West Indies (UWI) in Trinidad and Tobago and has helped to expand the research and practice relationships with the UWI and AAIUH’s partners.

"It has been an honor to serve as CEO of this great organization and I am proud of what we have achieved together to advance Arthur Ashe's legacy," added Dr. Browne. "Marilyn is a champion of the Ashe Institute culture and an inspirational leader who has been responsible for much of the Institute's success over the years. She has always been part of my succession plan and I am so pleased that the board has appointed her. She is unique in her ability to translate the vision and strategy of the Institute into executed results, creating diverse partnerships that empower communities and measurably improve health."

About The Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health
The Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health, located in multiethnic Brooklyn, was founded in 1992 by tennis champion and humanitarian, Arthur Ashe. Since its inception, the Institute has collaborated with community members to reduce morbidity and mortality from disease through improved access to care and increased health knowledge among the most vulnerable populations in urban, underserved areas. The Institute collaborates with community members to design, incubate and replicate neighborhood-based interventions that address health conditions that disproportionately affect minorities, reduce health disparities, improve outcomes for underserved groups and better prepare a more inclusive workforce. We share our founder's values of justice, service, inclusiveness and excellence and recognize access to quality healthcare as a basic right for all. http://www.arthurasheinstitute.org

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